

Message Text

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TAGS: CG, EFIN, AO, PINS

SUBJECT: FONMIN UMBA'S WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE

REUTERS REPORT DATELINED WASHINGTON, MARCH 3, FOLLOWS:

QUOTE FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE OF ZAIRE TODAY DENIED
ANGOLAN ALLEGATIONS THAT FORCES WERE BEING TRAINED IN HIS
COUNTRY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLAN
PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO.

"I CAN DECLARE ON MY HONOR NO TROOPS ARE BEING TRAINED IN
ZAIRE TO ATTACK ANGOLA," "MR. UMBA TOLD A PRESS BRIEFING.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ATTACKS AGAINST THE PRO-
MARXIST GOVERNMENT WERE COMING FROM WITHIN ANGOLA.

HE ADDED THAT IF PRESIDENT NETO WAS CONVINCED THEY WERE
BEING LAUNCHED FROM ZAIRE THEN HE SHOULD TAKE UP AN OFFER
BY ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO TO HAVE EITHER THE
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UNITED NATIONS OR THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)
INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION.

MR. UMBA IS HEADING A DELEGATION TO DISCUSS HIS COUNTRY'S
ECONOMIC PLANS AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION.

HE SAID THAT ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE SO COMPLEX THAT IT HAD TO RELY ON ITS PARTNERS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND TO HELP SOLVE THEM.

MR. UMBA SAID THAT WHILE NO SPECIFIC AMOUNTS OF INTERNATIONAL AID FOR ZAIRE HAVE YET BEEN DECIDED, HE HOPES A 200 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED WITH A SYNDICATE OF BANKS, HEADED BY NEW YORK'S CITIBANK, ON MARCH 10.

BUT HE SAID HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS MAINLY TO INFORM THE UNITED STATES OF THE SITUATION AND THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS.

AMONG OTHER TOPICS COVERED, MR. UMBA SAID
-- THERE ARE NO MOROCCAN TROOPS LEFT IN ZAIRE, APART FROM 10 OFFICERS TRAINING THE ZAIRE ARMY

-- ZAIRE DOES NOT EXPECT ANOTHER ATTACK FROM EX-KATANGESE GENDARMES, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED "ANYTHING WAS POSSIBLE"

-- HE WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSING U.S. MILITARY AID FOR ZAIRE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION

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-- HE HOPED ALL PARTIES IN THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE WOULD AGREE TO THE SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED, BUT SAID HE "UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED." UNQUOTE. VANCE

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QUOTE FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE OF ZAIRE TOD
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